



**Office of the Attorney General
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Leslie Shechter Newman**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Attorney General Sues, Files Temporary Injunction against
Unregistered Credit Repair Companies, hearing 9 a.m. Wednesday**

Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper has filed suit to stop an individual and his three credit repair companies from promoting and selling their services to Tennesseans.

General Cooper, acting at the request Director Mary Clement of the Division of Consumer Affairs, sued Anthony "Tony" Thomas of Georgia, who offers credit repair services to Tennesseans via posted signs, the telephone, the Internet, and seminars. The suit also named ExpyFi, a Georgia limited liability company for which Defendant Thomas is the sole organizer; CreditMax Financial, a Georgia limited liability company for which Defendant Thomas is also acting as the spokesperson; and Credit Phd., a Georgia not-for-profit corporation for which Defendant Thomas is the sole incorporator and chief executive officer. Defendant Thomas is also offering credit repair services by doing business via the Internet at www.expyfi.com. The suit alleges the defendants, who have not registered a bond to do business in Tennessee as a credit service business, violated the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act and the Tennessee Credit Services Businesses Act

The Attorney General filed a motion today in Davidson County Circuit Court seeking a temporary injunction that would prevent Thomas, ExpyFi, CreditMax, and Credit Phd. from doing business in Tennessee unless or until they register a bond with the State. **A hearing on the**

motion for a temporary injunction is scheduled 9 a.m. in Circuit Court Judge Barbara Haynes' court tomorrow.

Under the Tennessee Credit Services Businesses Act, all credit services businesses, whether an individual or company, must register a \$100,000 bond with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance to do business in Tennessee. None of the four Defendants named in the suit has registered or posted the required bond.

“We want Tennesseans to be aware that many of the services offered by a so-called credit repair company are steps consumers can take for themselves for free,” General Cooper said.

“Consumers should arm themselves with the facts before paying for services they may not need.”

“In many instances, self-help is better to repair your credit over time rather than spending hard-earned money on a credit repair company,” added DCA Director Clement. “For more information and to see whether a credit repair company you are considering is bonded in Tennessee, please see our website at www.state.tn.us/consumer/bonded_credit_repair.html.”

Seminars have been held by Thomas at various locations in Tennessee including the East Memphis Marriott hotel, the Top of the Line Banquet Hall in Memphis, and the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Nashville. Consumers who have attended these seminars and/or purchased credit repair services from Thomas, ExpyFi, CreditMax, Credit Phd., or any other unregistered business should contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at (615) 741-4737 or 1-800-342-8385 (toll-free inside Tennessee).

For more information on the lawsuit, please visit the Tennessee Attorney General website at www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us. Go to Office Information and click on Cases of Interest. In addition to the lawsuit, photos of the signs and pdfs of the website are posted.